

Message Text

SECRET

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43

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 AID-05 DPW-01 IO-10 FDRE-00

/075 W

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O P 231056Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5744

INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE

USDEL JEC PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

USSAG NKP THAI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL CAN THO

S E C R E T SAIGON 5506

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS VS

SUBJECT: HIGHLIGHTS OF NVA OFFENSIVE--SUMMARY FOR PERIOD ENDING
NOON APRIL 23

1. GENERAL.

DURING THE 24 HOUR PERIOD, THE GVN LOST HAM TAN, CAPITAL OF
BINH TUY PROVINCE AND RACH KIEN DISTRICT TOWN, LONG AN. HWY 22
TO TAY NINH WAS AGAIN CUT BY THE NVA. PRESSURE FROM COMMUNIST
FORCES CONTINUED IN THE BEN LUC DISTRICT CORRIDOR OF LONG AN.
THE LONG KHANH, BIEN HOA BORDER AREA ALONG HWY 1 WAS QUIET. AT
ABOUT 1630 ON 22 APRIL, A SABOTEUR DETONATED ONE REVETMENT ON
BIEN HOA AIRBASE THAT CONTAINED 500 LB BOMBS. BIEN HOA BASE ALSO
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RECEIVED 10 ROUNDS OF 130MM ARTY IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS WITH

NEGATIVE RESULTS. THE DELTA REMAINS RELATIVELY QUIET. OVERALL, THE LEVEL OF MILITARY ACTIVITY IN SOUTHERN SOUTH VIETNAM WAS ABOUT THE SAME AS THE PRECEDING DAY.

2. MR-III.

ALTHOUGH THE LEVEL OF FIGHTING IN MR-III DID NOT INCREASE SIGNIFICANTLY DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD, TWO BATTLES THAT HAD BEGUN EARLIER CULMINATED IN SETBACKS FOR THE GVN. AT 2245 ON 22 APRIL, RADIO CONTACT WITH HAM TAN WAS LOST AND THE CAPITAL OF BINH TUY FELL TO THE COMMUNISTS. IT IS RELIABLY REPORTED THAT THE DEFENDERS OF HAM TAN, ELEMENTS OF THE 3RD ARVN AND TERRITORIALS, FLED WITHOUT PUTTING UP MUCH RESISTANCE TO THE NVA. THE ROAD TO VUNG TAU AND HWY 15 FROM SAIGON TO VUNG TAU ARE NOW OPEN TO NVA THRUSTS.

IN LONG AN, RADIO CONTACT WAS LOST WITH RACH KIEN DISTRICT CAPITAL AT MID-MORNING ON APRIL 23. THE TOWN HAD BEEN UNDER HEAVY ATTACK AND JGS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT IT HAD BEEN OVERRUN. THE LOSS OF RACH KIEN COUPLED WITH SUSTAINED NVA PRESSURE IN BEN LUC DISTRICT POINT UP THE COMMUNIST STRATEGY OF TRYING TO CUT HWY 4 TO THE DELTA AND FORCE THE SW DEFENSE LINE TO SAIGON.

HWY 22 TO TAY NINH WAS AGAIN CUT BY THE NVA AFTER IT HAD BEEN OPENED YESTERDAY BY THE ARVN 25TH. THE BLOCK HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED SLIGHTLY TO THE SOUTH OF THE ORIGINAL ONE BETWEEN GO DAU HA AND TAY NINH CITY.

THE LONG KHANH, BIEN HOA CORRIDOR ALONG HWY 1 WAS QUIET AND AN ARMORED TASK FORCE PUSHED SEVERAL KMS DOWN THE ROAD WITHOUT MEETING NVA RESISTANCE. THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT NVA UNITS ARE MOVING TO THE NORTH AND WEST OF BIEN HOA.

BIEN HOA AIRBASE WAS ROCKED AT 1630, APRIL 22 BY A TERRIFIC EXPLOSION IN THE AMMO DUMP AREA. INVESTIGATION REVEALED THAT A SABOTEUR HAD DETONATED ONE REVETMENT OF 500 LB BOMBS. BIEN HOA ALSO RECEIVED 10 ROUNDS OF 130MM ARTY IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS.

THE NVA NOW HAS 16 INFANTRY DIVISIONS DEPLOYED TO MR-III. THESE DIVISIONS ARE SUPPORTED BY DIVISIONAL EQUIVALENTS OF SAPPERS, ARTY

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AND ARMOR.

3. MR-IV.

THE DELTA REMAINED RELATIVELY QUIET. THE MOST SIGNIFICANT INCIDENT REPORTED WAS A COMMUNIST ATTACK ON KIEN HUNG DISTRICT TOWN, CHUONG THIEN PROVINCE IN THE EARLY MORNING. IT IS NOT KNOWN IF THE TOWN WAS OVERRUN. THERE WERE NO MAJOR INCIDENTS REPORTED FROM THE NOR-

MALLY ACTIVE DINH TUONG PROVINCE.

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